

Message Text

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SECDEF/ISA WASHDC
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CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 7611

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, MASS, RP, SP
SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF US-RP MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT: THE
VIEWS OF SENATOR EMMANUEL PELAEZ, PHILIPPINE PANEL
CHAIRMAN

REF: MANILA 7260

SUMMARY: PELAEZ HAS DONE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK
IN PREPARING FOR BASIS TALKS. HE HAS ALSO DEVOTED CON-
SIDERABLE THOUGHT TO FUTURE ROLE OF US BASES IN PHILIP-
PINES IN CONTEXT OF ASEAN. PELAEZ IS STUDYING 1970
US-SPANISH AGREEMENT TO GET IDEAS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO
RENEGOTIATION US-PHILIPPINE AGREEMENT. HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED
ALSO ON PHILIPPINE MILITARY'S SELF-RELIANCE PLAN AND INDI-
CATED US SUPPORT FOR PLAN SHOULD FORM PART OF EVENTUAL
DOCUMENT THAT WOULD EMBODY US BASE RIGHTS. PELAEZ HAS NOT
YET BEEN BRIEFED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS ON PRECISELY WHAT
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PRESIDENT EXPECTS BASE AGREEMENT RENEGOTIATION TO ACHIEVE.

I AM VISITING CAGAYAN DE ORO, PELAEZ' HOME TERRITORY, THIS WEEKEND AND I PLAN TO EXPLORE HIS VIEWS IN DEPTH. END SUMMARY.

1. INTRODUCTION: FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING WITH PELAEZ REPORTED REFTEL, I HAD PALMER TAKE PELAEZ THE DRAFTS OF THE MBA ARTICLES THAT WERE AGREED FROM THE 1971-1972 MBA WORKING GROUP TECHNICAL TALKS AND THE TEXTS OF USG POSITIONS ON THE NON-AGREED ARTICLES (IV, V, XI AND XII). PALMER MET WITH PELAEZ JUNE 25 TO BRIEF HIM ON MY COMING WEEKEND VISIT TO CAGAYAN DE ORO AND TO MAKE PLANS FOR DISCUSSIONS I WILL HAVE WITH PELAEZ THERE. PALMER FOUND THE FORMER SENATOR HAS DONE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK SINCE THE INITIAL MEETING REPORTED REFTEL. SPECIFICALLY, HE HAS PARCELED OUT THE TECHNICAL WORK TO BE DONE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RP PANEL OF THE 1971-1972 WORKING GROUP. SOLICITOR GENERAL MINDOZA IS WORKING ON THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION QUESTION; ATTORNEY TOMAS TOLEDO OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE IS WORKING ON TAXATION MATTERS AND UNDERSECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COL. ISABELO CASTRO IS CONCERNED WITH MATTERS THAT AFFECT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. PELAEZ HAS BEEN BRIEFED AT SOME LENGTH BY AFP SECURITY ASSISTANCE EXPERTS ON PRESENT STATUS OF MAP DELIVERIES, THE AFP SELF-RELIANCE PLAN AND THE AFP VIEW OF THE FUTURE OF JUSMAG. PELAEZ HAS ALSO BEEN BRIEFED BY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY AND APPARENTLY BY MEMBERS OF DFA. FINALLY, PELAEZ HAS REVIEWED THE US-SPANISH 1970 AGREEMENT ON FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION (TIAS 6924).

2. US BASES IN PHILIPPINES AND ASEAN: AT MY INITIAL MEETING WITH PELAEZ I EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WERE THREE MAJOR ROLES THAT US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES PLAYED. THE FIRST WAS THAT THEY PROVIDE FOR THE AIR AND SEA DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES. SECONDLY, THEY ASSIST IN THE DEFENSE OF THE PACIFIC REGION AND PROVIDE A COUNTERPOISE TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHER POWERS IN THE AREA. THIRDLY, THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRATEGIC SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES. PELAEZ TOLD PALMER THAT, GIVEN THIS FORMULATION OF THE ROLES THE BASES PLAYED, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR FILIPINOS AND OTHERS IN THE REGION TO STOP THINKING OF US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AS SOME TYPE OF LIABILITY. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN STUDYING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US-SPANISH BASES AGREEMENT AND HE THOUGHT A KEY IDEA IN THAT AGREEMENT WAS THE IMPRESSION ONE GAINED THAT US BASES IN SPAIN WERE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST, AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY INTERESTING TO WRITE A TREATY IN WHICH US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES COULD BE SEEN AS PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION OR PERHAPS THE SMALLER AREA OF ASEAN.

3. THE COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE IDEA OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY AND US BASES IN THE ASEAN AREA: PELAEZ SAID THAT AT SOME POINT AFTER THE US AND THE PHILIPPINES HAD REACHED BASIC UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT A REVISED AGREEMENT, HE PLANNED TO SUGGEST TO PRESIDENT MARCOS THE NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THE MEMBERS OF ASEAN THE CONTINUING NEED FOR THE US PRESENCE IN THE AREA. US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, HE SAID, WILL BE NEEDED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE THE ASEAN REGION IS STABILIZED AND THE NEED FOR THE US PRESENCE LESSENED. PELAEZ EMPHASIZED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, US BASING IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS IN NO WAY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE "MALAYSIAN" IDEAL OF ATTAINING A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY, AND THAT EVEN THE MALAYSIANS SHOULD AGREE THAT CREATING A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY

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WILL TAKE TIME, DURING WHICH IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE US WOULD CONTINUE PROVIDING A SECURITY UMBRELLA OVER THE AREA.

4. THE PHILIPPINE SELF REGIANCE PLAN: PELAEZ TOLD PALMER

THAT THE DEGREE OF AFP COMMITMENT TO THE SELF RELIANCE PLAN HAD BEEN A SURPRISE TO HIM. THE AFP IS DETERMINED THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL BUILD UP A LIMITED ARMS INDUSTRY INFRA-STRUCTURE IN WHICH MOST PHILIPPINE MILITARY NEEDS CAN BE SUPPLIED DOMESTICALLY. HE SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THE QUESTION OF US SUPPORT FOR THE SELF RELIANCE PLAN SHOULD FORM A PART OF THE EVENTUAL DOCUMENT THAT WOULD EMBODY US BASE RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE SAID, "SOONER OR LATER THE BASES WILL GO. WHEN THAT DAY COMES, IT IS IN THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE ABLE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET MILITARILY."

5. CO-RELATIONSHIP OF THE THREE AGREEMENTS: PELAEZ SAID
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THAT THE IDEA THAT HE HAD ADVANCED AT THE 1956 BENDETSSEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NEED FOR A INTER-RELATIONSHIP OR A "CO-RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE BASIE AGREEMENT, THE 1951 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND THE 1953 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT REMAINS AN ACTIVE FORCE IN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SECURITY THINKING. HE SAID HIS PHILIPPINE MILITARY BRIEFERS HAD EMPHASIZED THIS CONCEPT AT SME LENGTH.

6. COMMENT: PELAEZ TOLD PALMER THAT HE WAS GETTING EXCITED ABOUT BECOMING INVOLVED AGAIN IN BASES AND OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION PELAEZ ADVERTED REPEATEDLY TO THE 1956 NEGOTIATIONS AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GHOSTS OF THAT NEGOTIATION WILL HAVE TO BE LAID TO REST IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE WILL BE HAVING WITH THE FORMER SENATOR. DURING MY TALKS WITH PELAEZ THIS WEEKEND I PLAN TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE IDEAS HE HAS ADVANCED IN GREATER DEPTH. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT PELAEZ HAS NOT YET BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MARCOS ABOUT WHAT SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE.
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